

Targeted Watershed Grant Program

Grant Writing Workshop

July 19, 2007

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 8

Eric Steinhaus



Targeted Watershed Grants (TWG)

Goals of TWG Program:

- Implement watershed restoration activities to achieve measurable environmental results (outcomes).
- Build capacity of local watershed organizations on a regional level.



2006/2007 TWG Grants



- Implementation Grants
 - Encourages on-the-ground watershed conservation projects
 - 105 applications reviewed, competing for up to \$16M in funding (for 9-20 of the nation's outstanding watershed coalitions)
 - Awards to be made by the end of July, 2007
- Capacity Building Grants
 - There were 26 grant applications reviewed for organizations to facilitate improved watershed health (6 finalists announced in May, 2007 to apply for a total of \$3.2M)

Evaluation Criteria

- Innovation
- Tangible solutions
 - feasibility
 - environmental measures
 - integration
- Broad support (partnerships, interjurisdiction)
- Outreach
- Financial integrity

Successful Projects

- Well written, easy to understand project components and goals
- Meets criteria in RFP
- Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships
- Innovation
- Multi-jurisdictional (state-tribe-county-city, etc.) water quality authorities and control
- Focus on real results to achieve water-quality goals
- 303(d) listed water bodies (maybe with approved TMDLs)
- Basinwide watershed projects to meet common watershed goals

Ineligible Activities

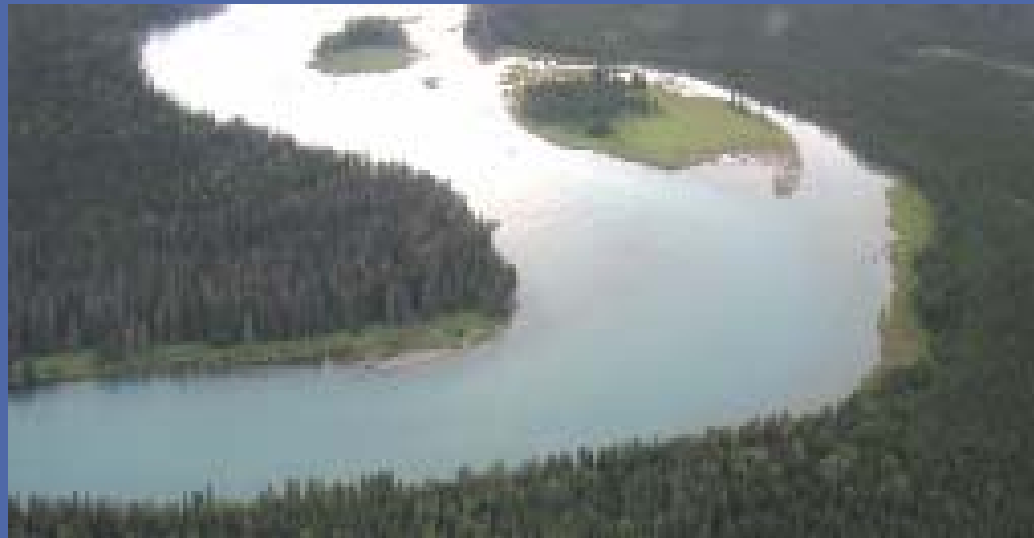
- Projects that support regulatory requirements
 - Funds for development of TMDLs
 - Stormwater Phase II projects
 - Permit compliance activities
- Construction of major structures
- Subgrants allowed, but limited to 20% of grant award

Water Quality Trading

- Trading as a priority
- Various trading mechanisms to improve water quality
- Often point source/nonpoint source pollution trading
- Often market based
- <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading.htm>

TWG Funding Details

- 25% non-federal match required
- Usually fund projects \$300K - \$900K
- Grant periods are 3 years



TWG Application Process

- 2 - 3 months to prepare proposal after RFP release
- Submit proposal to state/tribal water-quality agency
- Coordinate your efforts with state/tribal agency contacts

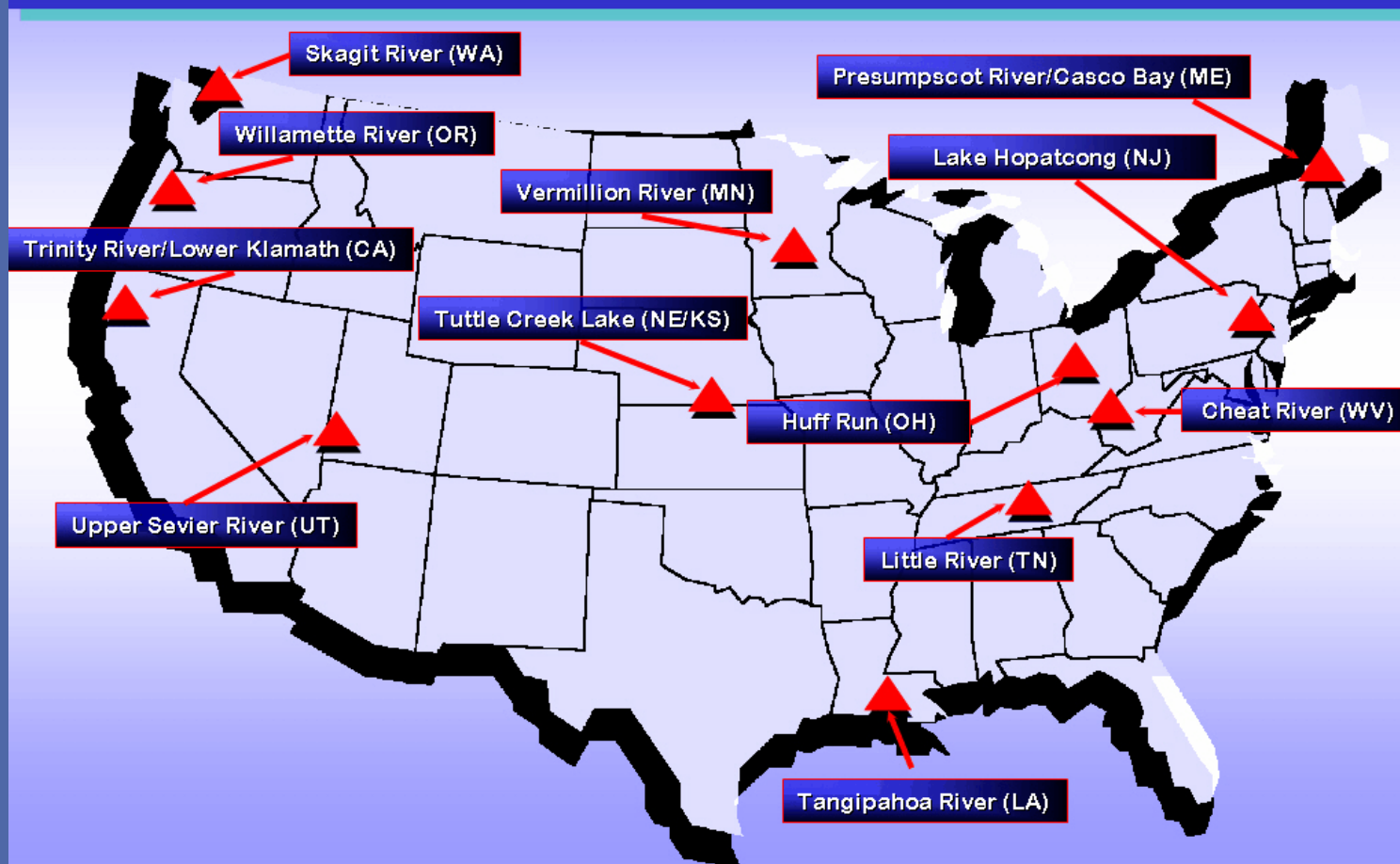


TWG Review Process

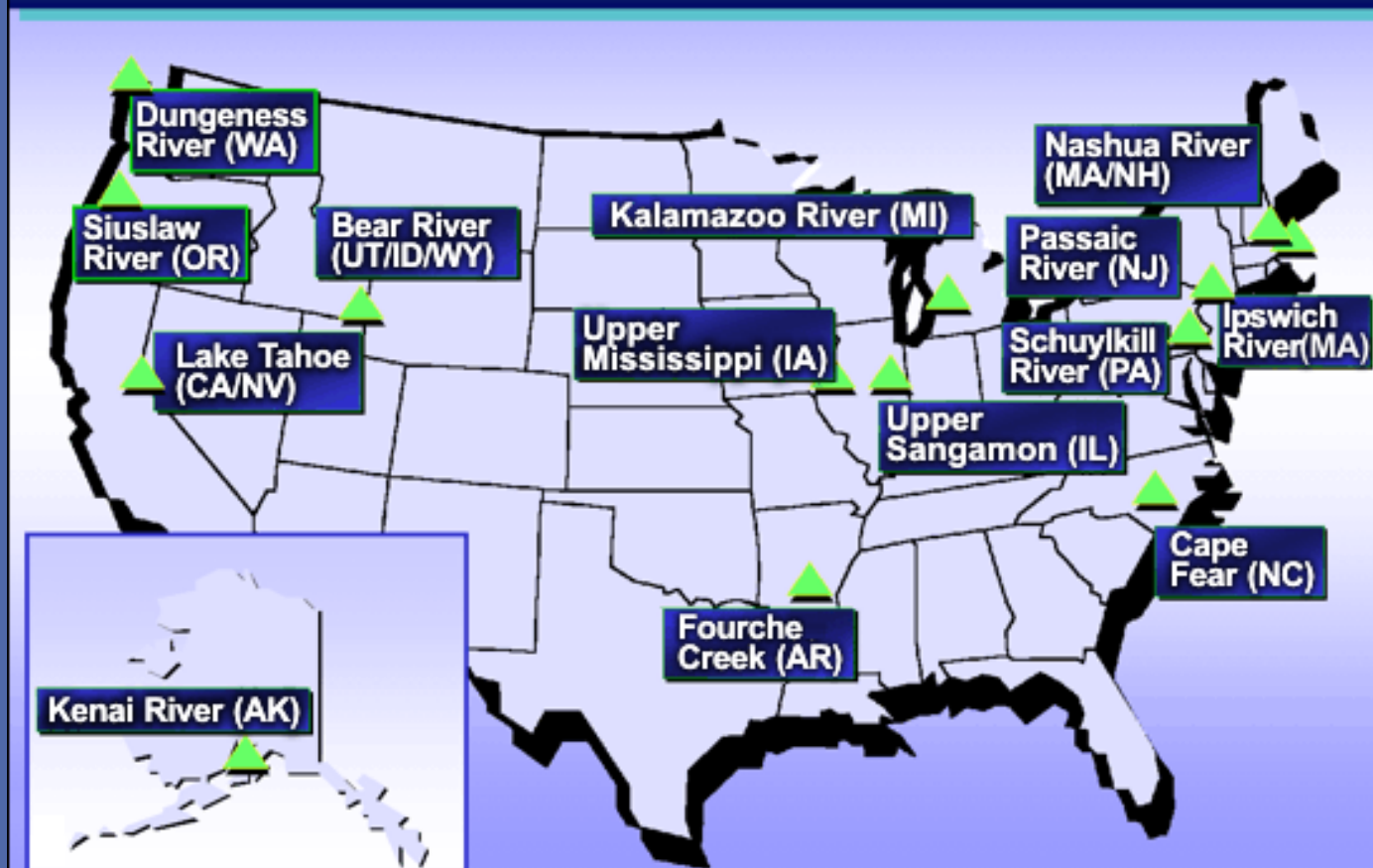
- Each state/tribe conducts its own solicitation and review process
- States/tribes submit proposals to EPA Regional offices
- The Region screens, scores, and ranks proposals
- Regions send the top 3-4 proposals for National competition. The same criteria are used, but also include: geographic diversity, project diversity, watershed size, urban/rural mix, and cost
- Usually 10 to 15 projects are selected per year



2005 Targeted Watershed Grants



Targeted Watersheds 2004



Targeted Watersheds 2003



Trees, Water and People



- 2006/2007 Capacity Building Grant Awarded
 - Proposal to provide training and capacity building needs to watershed groups in Montana, Utah, & Colorado; and to tribes on the Rosebud and Wind River Reservations

Bear River Watershed



- The Bear River is faced with impairments from animal feeding operations, grazing, agriculture, urban development, phosphate mining, oil and gas exploration, and logging
- This tri-state project will develop:
 - 1) an integrated Watershed Information System to facilitate data collection and analysis
 - 2) a water-quality trading program, and
 - 3) dynamic water-quality model to support trading

Lake Tahoe, CA and NV

- Decline in water clarity
- Project includes:
 - 1) develop ground-rules for water quality trading
 - 2) identify new approaches for removing fine sediments and nutrients in cold climates
 - 3) establish numeric estimates for phosphorus, nitrogen and fine sediment reduction for the identified load reduction opportunities; and
 - 4) complete a basin-wide load reduction potential



EMERAD BAY LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA

© MIKE NORTON

Dungeness Watershed, Washington



- Human-induced impacts, land use changes and physical alterations have hampered the natural flow of the river and bay process resulting in impaired water quality, bay shellfish closures, and dwindling salmon runs
- Funds will be used toward:
 - a microbial source tracking study to more precisely define pollutant sources
 - innovative BMP's related to stormwater, septic maintenance, water treatment and water conservation; and
 - a cost-effectiveness analysis of implemented BMPs

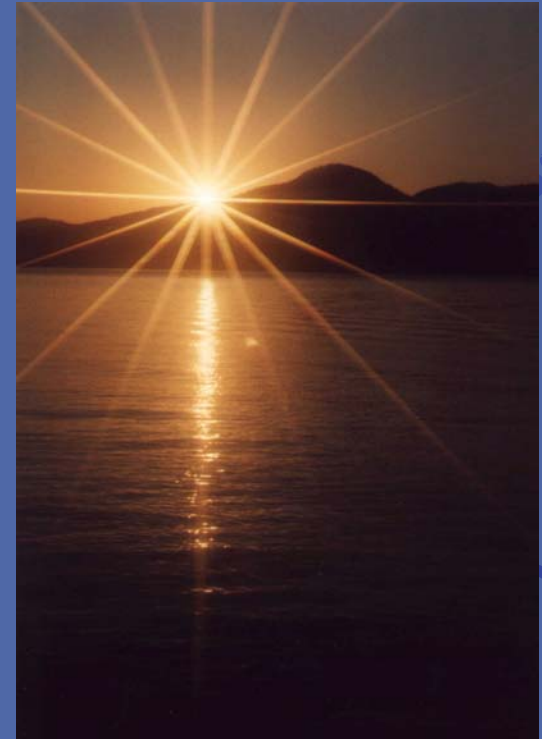
Upper South Platte, Colorado



- The watershed has experienced extensive wildfires, including the 2002 Hayman fire, resulting in massive sedimentation in the South Platte and its tributaries
- Funds were used to:
 - provide organizational capacity building
 - enhance post-fire recovery and restoration efforts
 - protect remaining unimpaired streams and wetlands, and
 - promote volunteer-driven restoration and clean-up efforts

Clark Fork – Pend Oreille Montana and Idaho

- Partnership of 4 watershed organizations to address nutrient impacts to the watershed
- Projects include:
 - expansion of voluntary nutrient-reduction programs
 - stream and habitat restoration BMPs
 - lake nutrient and sediment loading reductions along tribal lands, and
 - comprehensive monitoring systems to analyze and report trends



Regional Contacts

- Eric Steinhaus, 303-312-6837
steinhaus.eric@epa.gov
- Alternate: Peter Ismert, 303-312-6215
ismert.peter@epa.gov

Website

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative/>

or <http://www.epa.gov/twg>